United Nations S/2000/433

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 15 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to forward the attached text of a government statement on the third meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee on the Lomé Peace Agreement, dated 13 May 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim M. **Kamara**
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

00-43270 (E) 150500

Annex to the letter dated 15 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Office of the President
Government Statement on the 3rd meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee on the Lomé Peace Agreement held in Freetown, Saturday, 13 May 2000

1. At the meeting convened by the Chairman of the Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on 2 March 2000, and attended by the Heads of State of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, obstacles impeding the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement were identified, and parties to the Agreement, together with the international community, were urged to take certain measures to remove those impediments. Those measures included the following:

(a) Immediate removal by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of obstacles to the development of UNAMSIL;

(b) Immediate return by RUF of the large quantities of weapons and military equipment seized from the Guinean troops, as well as the immediate return by RUF and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council/Sierra Leone Armed Forces (AFRC/SLA) of the weapons seized from the Kenyan troops;

(c) Simultaneous removal of all road blocks throughout the country by all combatants;

(d) The acceleration of the establishment of more disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) centres once UNAMSIL deploys, and the exploration of new imaginative ways of funding the DDR;

(e) No Party has the right to claim any part of the country as its fiefdom.

2. Since that meeting the Government has taken the following measures:

(a) Intensified formal and informal contacts with the RUF leadership, including extending invitations to RUF to attend important national and international events taking place in Sierra Leone. For example, the Meeting of Ministers of Security, Justice and Internal Affairs, held in Sierra Leone from 16 to 17 April 2000, and the Workshop on a National Security Policy Paper for Sierra Leone, on 21 and 22 March 2000, several informal and informal bilateral meetings between the Head of State and the leader of RUFP;

(b) Speeded up the disarmament of pro-Government forces, that is, the Civil Defence Force (CDF) and SLA, throughout the country;

(c) Had pro-Government forces remove roadblocks throughout the country until it was realized that, in addition to not fully complying with the decisions in the Bamako Communiqué, the RUF combatants were exploiting the compliance of the Government by attempting to occupy more territory;

(d) Nominated its representative on the Council of Elders, established under the Lomé Agreement;

(e) Passed legislation for the setting up of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, while awaiting United Nations assistance towards the functioning of this Commission and the establishment of the Human Rights Commission.

3. The Government is therefore disappointed that RUF has refused to abide by the agreements reached at the Bamako meeting by the following actions:

(a) Stalling on the disarmament of its combatants;

(b) Continued obstruction of UNAMSIL deployment and performance of its duties in areas of RUF concentration;

(c) Retention of areas of control in the country, including the diamond-producing areas where there is now clear evidence that RUF has been mining and appropriating diamonds at an extensive scale;

(d) Smuggling arms and combatants into the city of Freetown with the intent of undermining law and order;

(e) Resuming its military campaign in several parts of the country, with the clear intention of taking over the Government by force;

(f) Preventing RUF ex-combatants from voluntarily disarming without orders from the leadership, orders which the leadership refuses to give;

(g) Severely punishing ex-combatants who disarm without orders;

(h) Conducting military action against United Nations peacekeepers for receiving and disarming RUF ex-combatants who voluntarily report to DDR centres to disarm and be demobilized, as well as destroying DDR centres where "unauthorized" RUF combatants are suspected to be housed;

(i) Abducting United Nations peacekeepers and seizing or destroying their armaments, ammunition, uniforms, personal belongings and their equipment;

(j) Shooting at a crowd of defenceless civilians with heavy weapons, killing 19 and wounding many others on 8 May 2000, for calling on RUF to release the abducted United Nations peacekeepers.

4. As a result of the RUF conduct stated in (j) above, the aggrieved civilians reacted by storming the residence of the RUF leader from where they were shot at, and chased him and some of his collaborators away. While some of the collaborators have been captured and held in safe custody by Government, the whereabouts of the RUF leader are still unknown to Government.

5. The resumption by RUF of an open military campaign, assault on United Nations peacekeepers, and the unprovoked slaughter of innocent civilians constitute grave violations of the Lomé Peace Agreement that must be effectively and promptly addressed before normal implementation of the Agreement can be meaningfully resumed.

6. In this regard, the Government is proposing as a way forward, that:

(a) RUF release all the United Nations hostages it is holding, together with their weapons, equipment and personal effects, in conformity with the Final Communiqué of the Summit of Heads of State Members of the Committee on Sierra Leone of the Lomé Peace Agreement adopted in Abuja on 9 May 2000;

(b) RUF return all the weapons and equipment seized from the Guinean contingents of UNAMSIL in February 2000;

(c) RUF relinquish control of Kono, Makeni, Magburaka and other areas to UNAMSIL and the Government, with immediate effect;

(d) RUF simultaneously with other combatant groups, submit all their ex-combatants for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;

(e) The international community provide the needed resources to enable the Government to execute speedily credible programmes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

7. On its parts, Government is fully committed to meetings its obligations under the Lomé Peace Agreement, and is ready to resume implementation of the Agreement under auspicious conditions.

United Nations S/2000/434

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 15 May 2000 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith, the text of a broadcast message to the nation by the President of Sierra Leone, Mr. Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, in which, *inter alia*, he told RUF field commanders that the cause for which they had been fighting was lost, and appealed to them to release all United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) peacekeepers illegally detained by the RUF (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex message could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sylvester E. **Rowe**
Ambassador/Deputy Representative
(Political Affairs)

00-43276 (E) 150500

Annex to the letter dated 15 May 2000 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Broadcast to the nation by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah 14 May 2000

The three-day period of national prayer for unity and mourning for nineteen fallen martyrs, victims of the brutality perpetrated by some members of the RUF outside the house of Corporal Foday Sankoh last Monday, is over. However, the pain and grief still linger in our hearts.

Meanwhile, I am happy to report that the security situation in the country has improved considerably, thanks to those loyal Sierra Leoneans and men of good will from abroad who have come to assist us in protecting ourselves and in establishing some stability in the country.

In official government statements we have assured you, among other things, that in order to maintain this improvement, and to ensure that civilians go about their business without fear or hindrance, we have established joint patrols including UNAMSIL personnel and Sierra Leone military police. Similar security measures are being taken in other areas of the country to protect civilians and, at the same time, to enable authorized security personnel to carry out their functions effectively to the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans.

Today, I though I should go beyond government statements and press releases and speak to the nation personally on another important matter.

My message is in the form of an appeal, a special appeal specifically addressed to all RUF combatants, their allies and field commanders who, unfortunately, have still not realized that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into society is in their own best interest. We appeal to them to lay down their arms, now.

I would like to let anyone who has access to these RUF field commanders and their combatants, to let them know, by radio, by word of mouth, or by whatever means of communication at their disposal, that the cause for which the RUF had been fighting is lost. I repeat, lost, lost forever.

Let them know, wherever they are, that enough is enough. Too many lives, including those of their comrades-in-arms, their friends and families, including innocent children, have been lost, unnecessarily. Too much blood has been spilt. Too many schools, farms, villages, towns and homes have been destroyed. Let them know that there is no longer any reason to detain foreign nationals, and that they must release them immediately, unharmed and unconditionally.

Let the RUF and their field commanders know that there is no longer any reason why they should punish their comrades who are fed up with life in the bush; those who are tired of fighting and killing their own kith and kin, and who want to disarm and return home and be integrated into society. Tell them that whatever the cause for which they had been fighting, over the last eight or nine years, no longer exists. Let them know that allegiance to this nation, and to the ideals for which it stands, is far better, far more rewarding, than blind allegiance to one man and one organization whose objective is to seize power or else destroy every living thing.

I would also like to appeal to all those who are really interested in peace, in their own countries, and in the sub-region at large, to use whatever means of communication, whatever influence they have at their disposal, to let the RUF commanders and combatants know that it is no longer necessary to detain or abduct foreigners, peacekeepers and humanitarian workers whose only mission is to assist us in our quest for peace, security and economic prosperity for all Sierra Leoneans. Let them know that kidnappings, abductions of foreign personnel, rape, mutilation, amputation and other atrocities have not helped and will never help their cause. Let them know that after nine long years the war they had been waging on the people of Sierra Leone is over.

On behalf of the Government and the peace-loving people of this country, I would like to assure them that now, more than ever before, they have no reason to hang on to their weapons. They have no reason to be afraid. Their safety is assured. Let them know that this grieving but resilient nation, is ready to receive them as members of this great family we call Sierra Leone. Together, we can all join in a collective effort to use our human and natural resources, not in destroying, but in building our country, for the benefit of us all.

Let this message go out from this day on, that a new Sierra Leone is emerging out of the ashes of a nine-year rebel war, out of the tears and blood of a people who deserve to live in peace and security.

I trust that everyone will do everything in his or her power to pass on this special appeal to the rebels and their commanders as a matter of extreme urgency.

I thank you for your attention.

United Nations S/2000/435

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 15 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué of the sixty-fourth session of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at ambassadorial level on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Addis Ababa, 14 May 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fesseha A. **Tessema**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

00-43282 (E) 150500

Annex to the letter dated 15 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the sixty-fourth session of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at Ambassadorial Level on the Conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea

Addis Ababa, 14 May 2000

The Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held its sixty-fourth session at ambassadorial level on Sunday 14 May 2000, in Addis Ababa, to discuss the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea in the light of the resumption of hostilities between the two countries since 12 May 2000.

The session was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Smaïl Chergui, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the OAU.

Following its deliberations, the Central Organ,

Recalling the communiqué of 5 May 2000, issued by the Office of the current chairman following the proximity talks between Ethiopia and Eritrea held in Algiers from 29 April to 5 May 2000;

Further recalling the communiqué issued by the Office of the current Chairman of the OAU on 12 May 2000, following the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as the communiqué issued by the Secretary-General of the OAU on 13 May 2000:

1. Expresses its grave concern at the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea and their consequences for both countries, as well as for security and stability in the region;

2. Appeals to both parties to put an immediate end to the hostilities and to commit themselves to a peaceful solution based on the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, and to resume the proximity talks, under the auspices of the current Chairman, aimed at enabling the two parties to reach an agreement on "consolidated Technical Arrangements";

3. Takes note of the statement by the representative of Ethiopia referring to the statement issued on 13 May 2000, by the Office of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia in which he stated that "Ethiopia remains ready, if invited by the OAU, to pursue peace and commence the proximity talks from where we left off in Algiers".

4. Takes note of the statement by the representative of Eritrea in which he stated that both parties are expected to respond to the appeal of the OAU current Chairman at the highest level;

5. Endorses the communiqué of 5 May 2000 issued by the Office of the current Chairman, following the proximity talks between Ethiopia and Eritrea held in Algiers from 29 April to 5 May 2000;

6. Further endorses the communiqué issued by the Office of the current Chairman of OAU on 12 May 2000, following the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as the communiqué issued by the Secretary-General of OAU on 13 May 2000;

7. Pays tribute to the current Chairman and the Secretary-General of OAU and to all those supporting OAU's efforts, for the sustained efforts they have been deploying in order to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea on the basis of the principles enshrined in the OAU Charter, including the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, and resolution 16 (I) adopted by the first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government (1964) on the respect of borders existing on achievement of national independence by member States;

8. Encourages the current Chairman to pursue his peace efforts on the basis of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities for its implementation, which were accepted by both parties and endorsed by the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

9. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2000/436

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 15 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge the strongest protest at the impoundment by the German members of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) of cameras, cassettes and other equipment of a Belgrade radio-television team at the exit of the town of Orahovac, Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, on 10 May 2000. On that occasion, reporter Borivoje Uskokovic and the cameramen of the team were harassed and their luggage and automobiles were searched. Their accreditation cards, issued by the KFOR press service in Pristina, were taken away from them and they were ordered to leave the German sector immediately and for good. The German members of KFOR pointed out that they had acted on orders. Upon leaving Orahovac, the team was given back only their cameras.

The behaviour of KFOR provides telling evidence of the drastic discrimination of the members of the international force in Kosovo and Metohija under United Nations auspices against Serbs. It is aimed at concealing the well-controlled concentration camp in which the Serbs of Orahovac have lived ever since the arrival of KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo in Kosovo and Metohija, exposed to terror and violence of the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army. Hardly a day passes by without the killing of a Serb or the burning of a Serbian home in the presence of KFOR.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests that responsibility be established for the said incident and that appropriate measures be taken to prevent the abuse of the international force in Kosovo and Metohija under United Nations auspices for the cover-up of the ethnic cleansing, terrorism and the violation of basic human rights in this Serbian province.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-43498 (E) 160500

United Nations S/2000/437

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 10 May 2000 on Ethiopia/Eritrea by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-43492 (E) 160500 160500

Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 10 May 2000 on Ethiopia/Eritrea by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union, having been informed by the Presidency's Special Representative of the outcome of the recent proximity talks held in Algiers for the solution of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, calls upon the Governments of the two countries to enter immediately and without preconditions into further negotiations on the basis of the statement of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Chair on 5 May 2000 in order to reach an agreement on the expedited implementation, which the Union stands ready to support, of the OAU peace settlement in accordance with the OAU "framework agreement" and the "modalities of implementation".

The European Union fully supports the efforts deployed in this direction by the representative of the current Algerian Chair of OAU, together with those of the United States of America and its own Presidency, and calls upon the two Governments to cooperate constructively with them, to refrain from taking any military action, which would have disastrous consequences for both countries, and to exercise maximum restraint.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.

United Nations S/2000/438

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 10 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the intensification of repression against democratic forces, civil society and independent media in Serbia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-43486 (E) 160500 160500

Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 10 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the intensification of repression against democratic forces, civil society and independent media in Serbia

The European Union is deeply disturbed by the intensification of repression against democratic forces, civil society and independent media in Serbia.

The measures taken by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to prevent the lawful and democratic rally scheduled to take place in Pozarevac on 9 May are one more demonstration of the denial of democracy and of the violation of the right to freedom of expression. The European Union praises the behaviour of the democratic forces, which avoided any violent incident despite deliberate provocation by the authorities.

The European Union further condemns the recent arbitrary arrests of politicians, journalists and students. The rearrest of the two Otpor activists is particularly disturbing.

The European Union reiterates its firm support for the righteous struggle of the Serbian people for freedom and democracy.

United Nations S/2000/439

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 15 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq and to the fact that United States and British aircraft carried out 200 sorties in the period from 29 April to 7 May 2000 in which they bombed civilian installations in the country, wounding three citizens. The Minister urges you to intervene with a view to halting such aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-43586 (E) 170500 170500

Annex to the identical letters dated 15 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and carried out 200 sorties in the period from 29 April to 7 May 2000. Eighty-four of these sorties were from Saudi Arabia, 62 were from Kuwait and 54 were from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 54 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1100 hours on 30 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 2 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 24 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Irbil North and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1335 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1215 hours on 3 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Ayn Zalah areas. They bombed services-related areas in Mosul city, wounding three citizens. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 146 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1600 hours on 30 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Jalibah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1700 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1800 hours on 1 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Nukhayb, Lasaf, Jalibah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1850 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1450 hours on 2 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 18 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Ashbajah, Taqtaqanah, Shinafiyah, Qurnah, Artawi, Basrah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Shatrah, Ali al-Gharbi and Qal'at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1610 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1155 hours on 3 May 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Amarah, Basrah, Salman, Hayy and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1450 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1125 hours on 6 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Basrah, Salman, Busayyah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Qurnah, Nukhayb East, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1235 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1022 hours on 7 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Basrah, Salman, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah, Diwaniyah, Taqtaqanah and Hashimiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these wanton acts of aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt their attacks and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq